

## TED ZIGMUNT STATE REPRESENTATIVE

March 9, 2010
Testimony in favor of AB 725 (Corrected, please disregard previous)
Assembly Committee on Public Health

Chairman Benedict and members of Committee on Public Health, thank-you for allowing me to present this brief testimony on behalf of Assembly Bill 725, which will provide instruction in life saving techniques to high school pupils.

This bill requires all school boards and operators of independent charter and governing bodies of private schools to offer enrolled high school students instruction in lifesaving skills including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), cardio cerebral resuscitation (hands only) and automated external defibrillator (AED).

Many high schools around the state already offer CPR training. Just this past Sunday a McFarland, Wisconsin high school student saved her brother's life after he was shocked when an aluminum roof rake he was using came into contact with a 7,200-volt power line. When McFarland emergency medical technicians and deputies arrived, the boy's sister was performing CPR on him. One of the EMTs recognized the girl as a student he taught CPR to in a high school class at the fire station.

This bill does not require certification, minimum minutes, or credit hour requirements. School boards can choose the level of instruction they wish to provide: From simple and no cost, to more elaborate lifesaving skills instruction. Instruction would begin in the 2010-2011 school year.

Cardiovascular diseases remain Wisconsin's number one killer and many lives can be saved if simple lifesaving procedures are initiated by lay rescuers. Providing this simple instruction will give our young adults an increased comfort level and the tools to step in and help save a life.

The American Red Cross and the American Heart Association support the bill.

Please reserve your questions for the experts and survivors yet to testify.

# Wisconsin Council of Religious & Independent Schools

**Archdiocese of Milwaukee** 

Association of Christian Schools International

**Christian Schools International** 

**Diocese of Green Bay** 

Diocese of La Crosse

**Diocese of Madison** 

**Diocese of Superior** 

Lutheran Church Missouri
Synod North Wisconsin District

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod South Wisconsin District

Wisconsin Association of Independent Schools

Wisconsin Conference of Seventh Day Adventists

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod – Northern District

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod – Western District

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod – Southeastern District

**Contact WCRIS** 

PO Box 7035 Madison, WI 53707

PHONE 608/204-0795

wcris.staff@gmail.com

www.wcris.org

TO:

**Assembly Public Health Committee** 

FROM:

Matt Kussow, Executive Director

RE:

**AB 725** 

DATE:

March 9, 2010

WCRIS is a non-profit association representing just over 800 Catholic, Lutheran, Christian, Seventh Day Adventists and independent schools across Wisconsin.

While we understand the goal of AB 725, we are asking members to support an amendment removing private schools from this unfunded mandate.

The freedom and flexibility to create our own curriculums is a fundamental stalwart of private education. In our schools, every student has a choice. If they are not satisfied with the breadth of classes offered, there is always at least one other option in the community for that student to consider.

This is a market force we embrace, and in many cases, private schools are ahead of the curve in responding to student needs. We strive to provide the most sophisticated classes available and are highly responsive to our students' educational needs. In short, we hate to lose anyone.

AB 725 shifts the focus and resources to one specific area of study. In many private high schools across Wisconsin, such classes already exist. However, the schools that are not currently offering CPR classes base this decision on need. Requiring these schools to offer this class takes valuable resources away from other programs.

As mentioned, the ability to control our own curriculums is a heart and soul issue for us. We stand in solidarity with the spirit of AB 725 and are more likely to come to a similar outcome on our own free will because of this debate. However, at this time we are asking committee members to remove us from this requirement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

#### 2009 WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY BILL 725

118.076 Lifesaving skills instruction in High Schools

March 9, 2010 Testimony - Assembly's Committee on Public Health

From: Tom Mooney – CEO Badger Chapter & Wisconsin State Relations Representative of the American Red Cross.

## ASSEMBLY BILL 725 WILL HELP PREPARE & EMPOWER OUR YOUTH TO HELP SAVE LIVES

#### Facts about Sudden Cardiac Arrest:

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is one of the leading causes of death among adults in North America. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) states that 310,000 coronary heart disease deaths occur outside of a hospital or an emergency department annually. This amounts to approximately 850 incidents each day, and most of these deaths are caused by sudden cardiac arrest. It is estimated that more deaths result from Sudden Cardiac Arrest annually than from house fires, prostate cancer, breast cancer and automobile accidents combined.

When a Sudden Cardiac Arrest event occurs, the heart stops pumping blood to other organs within the body due to an irregularity in the heartbeat. The vast majority of the time the heart's electrical impulses suddenly become rapid and chaotic; causing the heart's pumping action to stop abruptly. Victims collapse and quickly lose consciousness, often without warning. Unless a normal heart rhythm is restored, death follows within a matter of minutes. It is estimated that 95 percent of victims of cardiac arrest die before they reach a hospital or other source of emergency help. With support of Assembly Bill 725 we can significantly improve on that percentage by educating and empowering our youth to act when witnessing a sudden cardiac arrest.

The cause of sudden cardiac arrest is not well understood. Many victims have no history of heart disease, or if heart disease is present, it has not functionally impaired the victim. Unlike a heart attack, which is the death of muscle tissue from loss of blood supply, many victims of Sudden Cardiac Arrest have no prior symptoms. SCA can strike anyone, at any time, anywhere.

Wisconsin, Idaho, and Utah have the highest percentage of cardiac arrests. (Heart Rhythm Foundation 2002)

- In 2007, cardiovascular disease related deaths accounted for 32% (14,836) of all deaths in the State of Wisconsin. Source: Wisconsin Deaths 2007, Wisconsin DHS, DPH, BHIP
- According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, "In 2005 more than 34% of all Wisconsin deaths (15,892) were due to Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)...CVD is the leading cause of death among men and women of all racial and ethnic groups." It is a non-discriminatory disease that affects all of us including our youth.
- "During 2004-2006, 24% of all men and 9% of all women who died of coronary heart disease were younger than 65 years of age. For African Americans, the percentages were even higher 46% of African American men and 36% of African American women who died of coronary heart disease were younger than 65 years of age." The Wisconsin Plan for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention 2010-2015.

Note: As the baby boomers begin to age — there is "real" concern that the number of sudden cardiac arrest related deaths will go up significantly in the years ahead.

## Assembly Bill 725 (Life Saving Instruction in High Schools) will help save lives.

When a Sudden Cardiac Arrest event occurs (and the heart stops pumping blood to other organs in the body) every minute that passes between collapse and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) for a witnessed SCA, survival rates decrease 7 to 10 percent if no Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is provided. Administering CPR before defibrillation can double or triple survival rates from a witnessed SCA incident at most intervals of the rescue process.

The average response time for first responders (once 911 is called for help) can be 8-10 minutes (and in rural areas even longer). Thus the need for educating and empowering our citizens (including our youth) to proactively act when witnessing a sudden cardiac arrest can mean the difference between life and death to so many of our neighbors, family members, and friends.

Supporting Assembly Bill 725 (Life saving instruction in High Schools) will give the average child (our children, our future) the knowledge, confidence, and skills essential to lessen the effect of injury or sudden illness and will help sustain a victim's life until professional responders arrive. Not only will learning these life saving skills help with victims of sudden cardiac arrest but it will also help victims of drowning, electrocution, accidental poisoning, suffocation and drug overdose.

Our schools are some of the most popular public places within one's town or community — teeming with students, staff, faculty, parents, grandparents and visitors arriving for plays and recitals, homecoming games and graduations, fairs and community meetings. And anywhere large numbers regularly congregate, there's a chance someone will collapse from a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). That person will likely die unless lay people (all of us and our children) are educated and empowered to act and there is an effective rescue plan in effect — which is exactly what public health experts recommend for such venues as shopping malls, sports stadiums, and yes, even schools.

Educating our youth on these life saving skills is a must for all our schools. We need to provide the forum to make this as easy as possible of our youth to learn these skills. Not only will it make our schools and communities saver but it will help keep our families safer when such incidents unfortunately happen at home. Over 60 percent of sudden cardiac arrest incidents are witnessed events and when it happens at schools research shows that close to 80 percent are witnessed. Every second counts and the sooner we can act the more lives will be saved.

# New Life Saving Technique – Every lay person (including our youth) should know this – it is helping save lives

Cardio cerebral resuscitation (CCR) – it is also known as Compression Only-CPR, Hands Only, Call and Pump etc. – When using this skill the lay responder performs only chest compression on a victim of a "witnessed" adult sudden cardiac arrest.

In Dane County alone the community has seen the incidence of witnessed adult sudden cardiac arrest survival go from 17% in 2007 to 38% in 2009. This simple CPR skill can save many lives with neurologically intact results. This is truly an exciting development and skill that everyone should be aware of and know. Including our youth!

Learning the signs and symptoms of a heart attack and a cardiac arrest is the first step in the Cardiac Chain of Survival. Our youth are already in the learning mode. They learn quickly and can respond quickly. We have seen several saves in our own county of youth saving the lives of others with CPR – whether using traditional CPR or Compression Only-CPR. They quickly learn how to do the skill giving them the confidence to act promptly and efficiently.

Just this weekend, there was an example of a sister performing CPR on her brother who was shocked while clearing their home's roof of snow in McFarland. According to the news media, the sister performed CPR till the professional first responders arrived – her actions played a big part in saving her brother's life.

Your support of Assembly Bill 725 will help save lives. Getting our youth educated and trained in CPR and AED life saving instruction within our high schools makes sense as it is truly a "must" need for every student. The life they might actually save in the future may actually end up being one of us in this room. Examples of saves are in your packet.



# UPDATE: Teen gets electrical shock while trying to clear snow from roof

Posted: Mar 07, 2010 3:29 PM CST



TOWN OF DUNN (WKOW) -- A 14 year old boy got an electrical shock Sunday afternoon while trying to clear snow from the roof of his family's home.

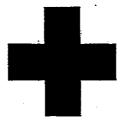
It happened in the town of Dunn. Authorities say the teen's snow rake made contact with overhead power lines.. shocking him. 27 News learned paramedics arrived and found the boy unresponsive, with his sister performing CPR. Paramedics then had to use a defibrillator to shock his heart before med flight

arrived and transported him to UW Hospital. They say he had a good heart rate and was breathing. Officials say the boy's sister played a big role in reviving her brother.

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# American Red Cross

## CITATION to

#### Alexandria Mentzel Lea Ann Allen

On October 28, 2008, Alexandria Mentzel, trained in American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, and Lea Ann Allen, trained in American Red Cross CPR/AED — Adult and Child, helped save the life of Pete Dignan. While rehearsing on stage for The Wizard of Oz, Pete collapsed from cardiac arrest. Alexandria, working with the costume crew, was outside the auditorium when two girls ran to call 9-1-1. Alexandria ran to the stage, checked for signs of life and finding none started chest compressions. As the rescue effort continued, someone else gave rescue breaths and secretary Lea Ann Allen took over chest compressions until EMS arrived. Without a doubt, the skills learned in the American Red Cross Health and Safety Services course and used by Alexandria Mentzel and Lea Ann Allen contributed to saving Pete Dignan's life.

For this act, Alexandria Mentzel and Lea Ann Allen have been awarded the American Red Cross Certificate of Merit. This is the highest award given by the American Red Cross to an individual or team of individuals who saves or sustains a life by using skills and knowledge learned in an American Red Cross Health and Safety Services course. The certificate bears the signature of the President of the United States, who is the honorary chairman of the American Red Cross, and the signature of the chairman of the American Red Cross.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

al sense of tiredness. — The Associated Press

# **l'eteran, forme**i relighter dies

a local hospital. He was 86. served from 1942 to 1946 in Val Brown died Monday at ner Green Bay firefighter He was born in 1922 and Army veteran and for

sons, said his father was a alk much about his expedeputy chief. 35 years and retired as a Fire Department for rivate person who didn't Max, one of Brown's two

ways there "when I needed good father," who was altiences in the war. Max said Brown was a

al service was held. Joy, and his two sons survive him. A private funer- Corinthia McCoy/Press-Gazette Brown's wife of 58 years,

> agencies said Radio with fresh batter sure you have a NOAA ries, tha terize your car and home, gather items for a disaster kit, aweather Green Bay Press-Gazette Now is the perfect time to win Pere High student a litesaver

Thursday, Novembër 13, 2008



after he collapses Senior begins CPR on teacher

served on the Green Bay

the Army in Europe. He

twafter@greenbaypressgazette.com BY TONY WALTER

grade in ecoabout doesn't have jokes that Ally Mentzel DE PERE — Pete Dignan to worry

High School semester. Mentzel, a Pere

nomics this

senior, Dignan's life helped save

Mentze

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Correction

Local/State: The Bay

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looking for volunteer dogs rade on Nov. 22 and is not be part of the Holiday Pa-Animal Shelter Inc. will not Area Humane Society &

tion in Friday's newspaper

stated otherwise.

The Press-Gazette

type of courage. It was a heroic act."

school musical "The Wizard of Oz," when he possible viral condition. tack but turned out to be a assumed to be a heart atpassed out with what was ing rehearsal for the

running to the school of was outside the auditoriwith the costume crew, um when she saw two girls nan said, Mentzel, who worked "My heart stopped," Dig-

he wasn't breathing." saw Mr. Dignan," Mentzel said. "I took his pulse and "I ran up to the stage and

at the Greater Green Bay she took a lifeguard course ceived CPR training when So Mentzel,

fice to call 911.

Dignan, 42, was direct-

"He's my favorite teacher ever," Mentzel

said De Pere Superintendent dent Ben Villarruel. "We all hope we'd have that who is not only trained

something wrong," she said. "I just did what I remembered." YMCA, began to administer heart compression. "I was afraid I was doing

Allen office secretary LeaAnn pupil services director, admouth resuscitation, and ministered Rob Lennon, the school's took over mouth-to-

that her quick action helped save Dignan's life, "He's my favorite Bellin Hospital physician Mentzel was told by a

Dignan said he doesn't talls about Dignan's rescue.

but quick enough to act without hesitation, I'm very impressed." leacher Pete Dignan



remember anything about the inciden

of the three musical perevening to watch the first the school I'm very impressed," said a ladder when I collapsed on stage and was climbing iormances. student who is not only coming out of a fog at the Dignan, who returned to to act without hesitation trained but quick enough hospital. For a high school he said. "I only remember "They tell me I went up Thursday

- See this week's De Pere Journal or www.deperejournal.com for more de-

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The city's mo

# Mayor was among FBI warns 60 in Shawano of "

those notified The Associated Press

clarification, please call

Managing Editor Barbara if you have a correction or promptly and courteously. corrects factual errors

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> were notified on Nov. 5. Acday saying the 60 people sued a statement Wednes-Peace in Milwaukee is-

or e-mail bjanesh@green Janesh at (920) 431-8325

> ing an investigation. thorities discovered duran implied threat" that au-FBI spokesman Leonard

that they were potentia released because the intails of the case could be as part of an ongoing investigation." victims of an implied threat that was discovered He said no specific de-

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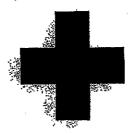
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### American Red Cross

## CITATION to

Samuel E. Neher Kenny Lowe Kerri E. Richardson

On January 11, 2010, Samuel E. Neher, an American Red Cross Life Guard instructor, Kenny Lowe and Kerri E. Richardson, trained in American Red Cross Standard First Ald and CPR/AED — Adult, helped save the life of Louis Rusch. Kerri was notified by a student that someone had collapsed on the indoor track and was unconscious. Kerri radioed "Code Red" to Initiate a system wide response, as well as Kenny Lowe since his area is close to the track. Kerri then grabbed the AED and proceeded to the scene. Kenny was on the scene when Kerri and Samuel arrived. The victim, Louis Rusch was face down on the track. Samuel took charge. Louis stopped breathing and showed no signs of life. Samuel moved Louis on his back, positioned himself for chest compressions and assigned Kerri rescue breaths. Kenny prepared the AED. Samuel applied the AED pads to the victim. A shock was advised and administered by Kenny. The team provided CPR in 2 minute cycles through 5 shocks and one cycle when the AED advised no shock. EMS arrived on the scene and took over care of Louis Rusch. Without a doubt, the skills leamed in the American Red Cross Health and Safety Services course and used by Samuel E. Neher, Kenny Lowe and Kerri E. Richardson contributed to saving Louis Rusch's life.

For this act, Samuel E. Neher, Kenny Lowe, and Kerri E. Richardson have been awarded the American Red Cross Lifesaving Team Award for the Professional Responder. This is one of the highest awards given by the Red Cross to an individual or team of individuals who saves or sustains a life by using skills and knowledge learned in an American Red Cross Health and Safety Services course. The certificate bears the signatures of the President and CEO of the American Red Cross, and Chairman of the American Red Cross.



#### American Red Cross

## CITATION to

#### KAREN DIX

On April 20, 2007, Karen Dix, trained in American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, helped save the life of Lawrence Kiefer. Karen was in her office, just across from the faculty lounge, when Lawrence Kiefer collapsed shortly after finishing his lunch. Karen grabbed the school's AED and rushed to help. Finding no signs of life, Karen hooked up the AED and began CPR. After a couple of minutes, the AED advised a shock. Karen delivered the shock which revived Mr. Kiefer. By the time EMS arrived, Mr. Kiefer was conscious and speaking. Without a doubt, the skills learned in the American Red Cross Health and Safety Services course and used by Karen Dix contributed to saving Lawrence Kiefer's life.

For this act, Karen Dix has been awarded the American Red Cross Lifesaving Award for the Professional Responder. This is one of the highest awards given by the Red Cross to an individual or team of individuals who saves or sustains a life by using skills and knowledge learned in an American Red Cross Health and Safety Services course. The certificate bears the signatures of the President and CEO of the American Red Cross, and Chairman of the American Red Cross.



#### American Red Cross

## CITATION to

#### John DeMarco

On November 10, 2004, John DeMarco, trained in American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, helped save the life of a student. Mr. DeMarco's physical education students were performing a fitness circuit. One of the male students complained of "dizziness" then collapsed to the floor. By the time Mr. DeMarco found the student, he was face down and convulsing. He turned the student over onto his back. The convulsing subsided then the student became unconscious. Mr. DeMarco performed a check for breathing and found none. Ruth Kalwinsky, the school nurse, arrived with oxygen supplies. Mr. DeMarco administered rescue breaths. Ms. Kalwinsky and Mr. DeMarco checked for signs of circulation but found none. They immediately began CPR. First responders arrived with their AED which was immediately applied to the student's chest. A shock was administered. The AED indicated a second shock was necessary and it was administered. A faint pulse was detected. The student was transported to the hospital. Without a doubt, the skills learned in the American Red Cross Health and Safety Services course and used by John DeMarco contributed to saving the student's life.

For this act, John DeMarco has been awarded the American Red Cross Certificate of Merit. This is the highest award given by the American Red Cross to an individual or team of individuals who saves or sustains a life by using skills and knowledge learned in an American Red Cross Health and Safety Services course. The certificate bears the signature of the President of the United States, who is the honorary chairman of the American Red Cross, and the signature of the chairman of the American Red Cross.

## Wisconsin State Journal

March 7, 2010

## Teen shocked by power line, saved by sister

GEORGE HESSELBERG ghesselberg@madison.com 608-252-6140 | Posted: Sunday, March 7, 2010 5:09 pm | 1 Comment

A McFarland-area teenager was revived by his sister Sunday afternoon after he was shocked when an aluminum roof rake came into contact with a 7,200-volt power line.

"She saved him," said Capt. Harlan Hettrick, of the McFarland Fire Department.

He said the boy had picked up the roof rake, used to pull snow from a house roof and about 15 feet long, and "somehow and for some reason got it over the top of the electric wire," said Hettrick. The wire, called a "primary line," was between power poles on the street, Alliant Energy officials said.

When McFarland emergency medical technicians and deputies arrived, the boy's sister was performing CPR on him. One of the EMTs, Paul Bowers, recognized the girl as a student he taught CPR to in a high school class at the fire station, Hettrick said.

The boy was described as "unresponsive" when his sister found him. "She was giving good, aggressive proper CPR," said Hettrick.

Rescuers quickly attached a defibrillator and gave the boy another shock, said Hettrick. He was taken by helicopter to UW Hospital where his condition was undisclosed Sunday afternoon.

Hettrick said it was unknown what the boy was trying to do with the roof rake.

The home is located at 4214 Oak Street in the town of Dunn about two blocks from Lake Waubesa south of McFarland in the Spartan Hills neighborhood.

Posted in Local on Sunday, March 7, 2010 5:09 pm



**@**r □ PRINT THIS

## Cardiac Arrest - Would You Help?

#### By Courtny Gerrish

MILWAUKEE - If your heart stops, seconds count, but before help arrives, strangers may have to save your life. Would you help? Many people in Wisconsin don't want to get involved. First responders in Milwaukee County do a great job of saving lives, but more people would make it if bystanders would jump in and start CPR. Mark Scholl remembers the day he nearly died. It was just a normal work day at Sam's Club in Franklin when Mark's heart stopped. "Went to the break room, and I sat down and passed out," Scholl said. Co-workers started CPR. They weren't exactly sure what to do, but jumped in anyway. "Not exactly knowing what I was doing but the sooner the better and don't stop," Sam Dial said. Scholl made it, but many people in Milwaukee County don't. The irony here: our first responders are some of the best in the country. A recent study of ten regional systems put Milwaukee County's EMS near the top. Milwaukee Fire Department's Med 5 is the busiest in the state. They save lives every day. Our survival rate for a common type of cardiac arrest is 25 percent. While that's good, we discovered other metropolitan areas doing much better. Seattle has a survival rate of 45 percent. "The sooner someone actually starts compressions, even if they're not as good as what we would deliver, it's actually squeezing blood to the brain," says Milwaukee firefighter/paramedic Lieutenant Michael Wright. CPR is key. In Seattle half of bystanders jumped in to help, one of the reasons that city's survival rate is so high. "Once they arrive at the hospital they have a much higher chance of leaving that hospital not only alive but neurologically intact," Froedtert Hospital's Dr. Tom Aufderheide said. So what about here in Wisconsin? If you saw a stranger drop to the ground, unconscious and not breathing, would you jump in and help? Something is better than nothing when it comes to CPR. In the Racine area, the cardiac arrest survival rate on EMS calls averages just 15 percent. Here's what's alarming: out of the 64 people that witnessed a person collapse in 2007, just 15 tried CPR. "With less than four minute response times that's still a critical time element that there's nothing being done," Division Chief Jay Wuerker said. Angie Scott and her co-workers at Sam's Club weren't confident in their CPR skills, but they jumped in anyway. "I don't know why but it clicked. Everything just came back to me, so I started to do mouth to mouth," Scott said. Scholl is now back at work and getting better. "Everybody says 'oh you gotta have a guardian angel.' I say 'ya, I've got three of them," Scholl said. When it comes to saving a life, you can't always rely on the experts. You may have to rely on the kindness of strangers. In Wisconsin, the city of Kenosha is setting the standard. Forty percent of the time by standers performed CPR. Seattle has the best survival rate in the nation at 45 percent. Boston is at 40 percent. In the Midwest, Minneapolis is close to Milwaukee County which is a 25 percent survival rate. One CPR note: a lot of people shy away from helping because they're afraid. CPR is now being taught using only compressions, meaning mouth to mouth is no longer part of the equation.

#### Find this article at:

http://www.todaystmj4.com/features/specialassignment/45709422.html

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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PO Box 1997 Milwaukee, WI 53201-1997 Phone (414) 266-2000 www.chw.org



TO:

Chairman Benedict & Members of Public Health Committee

FROM:

Michelle Mettner, Vice President Government Relations & Advocacy

Children's Hospital & Health System

DATE:

March 9, 2010

RE:

AB725 Instruction in Lifesaving Skills

Thank you for holding a public hearing on AB725 relating to instruction in lifesaving skills in schools. As you know, cardiovascular diseases remain Wisconsin's number one killer. Preventing death from cardiac arrest hinges on fast action: a person's chance of surviving drops by 7% to 10% for each minute of delay in restoring a normal heartbeat. Despite these staggering statistics many lives can be saved if simple lifesaving procedures are initiated by lay rescuers. In fact, there is proof that if defibrillators are used within the first few minutes of a collapse the survival rate could be as high as 70 percent. On-site public access defibrillation programs (PAD) often mean the difference between life and death; even in areas with the fastest-acting ambulance and emergency response services, response times are several minutes.

In order to ensure that our young adults have the appropriate instruction in lifesaving skills, I strongly urge you to support AB 725 which would require instruction in school of lifesaving skills. This legislation allows school boards to develop their program based on their individual needs and resources. School boards have the choice to develop simple and no cost programs such as bringing in volunteers or building a more comprehensive program that will provide their students with certification.

This legislation aligns with the mission of Children's Hospital and Health System's Project ADAM (Automated Defibrillators in Adam's Memory) program, which was created in 1999 to help schools across the nation implement PAD programs through support and education. In 2009, 13 lives were saved in schools supported by Project ADAM. In January, 2010 three more lives, including two children and one adult, were saved in just one week.

Providing this simple instruction will give our young adults an increased comfort level and the tools needed to help save a life.

Thank you for your time.

TO:

Chairman Benedict & Members of Public Health Committee

FROM:

Patty Lemel, mother of Adam, victim of SCD

DATE:

March 9, 2010

RE:

AB725 Instruction in Lifesaving Skills

Lifesaving skills in schools—AB725—teaching our youth how to respond in an emergency is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children; giving students the confidence, courage and most importantly the knowledge to do cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Project ADAM (Automated Defibrillators in Adam's Memory) has been helping schools implement and sustain public access defibrillation (PAD) programs since 1999. In January of that year my 17 year old son, Adam, passed away on the gym floor of a local high school. How many students at that basketball game would have been prepared to help? Our mission is to help the schools place AEDs, but my mantra has always been: The AED will never save a life--people save lives! A person or a few people need to begin the chain of survival for a life to be saved. That is why we help the schools by awarding CPR/AED training grants. We encourage the schools to train the students. No matter where these young people go they will be ready to respond appropriately in any cardiac emergency.

AB725 will help insure our youth are trained in CPR/AED, creating a generation of young adults with the awareness, instruction and confidence to save a life. I strongly encourage you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time.

TO:

Chairman Benedict & Members of the Public Health Committee

FROM:

Joe Lemel, the father of a child who suddenly died of cardiac arrest

DATE:

March 9, 2010

RE:

AB725 Instruction in Lifesaving Skills

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1999, I was at a high school basketball game watching my son, Adam, play for his Whitefish Bay High School basketball team when he suddenly collapsed and died. This was just a few weeks after his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had no prior symptoms. He was the last person you would have suspected to have an underlying heart problem.

He was a tireless multi sport athlete. State champion tennis player, soccer player but most importantly he was my son. We learned later that in his case often times the first symptom is sudden death and that his best chance of survival would have been if there was an Automated Defibrillator in place and people trained with the life saving skills that the passing of this bill would so greatly enhance.

All that is left for us now is to be sure that no parent ever stands witness to their child's death with out knowing they where given the best chance of survival. So in 1999 Project ADAM (Automated Defibrillators in Adam's Memory) a Children's Hospital and Health System program was started with the above goal in mind. The Adam in Project ADAM is my son.

In just the last 14 months, 16 lives where saved in Project ADAM supported schools.

Through our efforts we know first hand that funding remains the major obstacle toward our goal that every child would graduate with life saving skills.

As a father who lost his son, I know first hand the undeniable need that the passage of AB725 will fill.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Lemel